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11-19-79
state, big sky, fb, bb

UM FOOTBALL COACH GENE CARLSON
WILL NOT BE RE-HIRED FOR THE
1980 SEASON

MISSOULA--

In a prepared statement Monday, Nov. 19, 1979, University of Montana President Dr. Richard C. Bowers agreed with UM Athletic Director Harley Lewis' recommendation that Grizzly football coach Gene Carlson and his staff should not be rehired for the upcoming season.

Dr. Bowers read the statement to several members of the local media and the public Monday morning on the UM campus. The statement:

"After careful consideration of the University of Montana football program, I have accepted, and concur with the recommendation of Athletic Director Harley Lewis not to rehire head football coach Gene Carlson and his staff.

This decision has not been an easy one for either Harley or me. It was made after consideration of what would be in the best interests of the University and its athletic future.

Effective immediately, the Director of Athletics and I are beginning a national search for a new football staff. Our intention is to have the hiring process completed in December.

Athletics is an important part of our educational experience, and the University of Montana recognizes it must actively support intercollegiate sports. I am charging Harley Lewis with the job of upgrading our program, and developing the resources necessary to be competitive in the Big Sky Conference. I, as President, personally commit my assistance and support to him in these tasks.

Since facilities play an important role in our ability to upgrade the football program, we are most supportive of the "City Spirits" plan to develop a community facility. As part of our goal to bring a competitive posture to University of Montana football, we will lend our enthusiastic efforts to make this program a reality.

It is obvious that the University of Montana does not have the financial resources to achieve these goals overnight. We will, however, use all available avenues -- public and private, to maintain a quality athletic program. The active, enthusiastic support of all parties involved is both necessary and welcomed."

(over)

UM FOOTBALL COACH---add one

Lewis announced he is looking for a coach with a successful background in coaching football, preferably at the college level, as a head coach.

He added that the ability to work with and communicate with students, faculty, alumni and athletic department personnel is an important quality for the job. The current salary of the head coach is \$24,000. The salary of the new coach is contingent upon experience.

Lewis also said four assistant positions are also open, and successful recruiting, public relations activities and fund raising will be the main criteria for these positions. The salary range will be \$16,000 to \$20,000.

The deadline for applying for the positions is Dec. 10, 1979. Applications and nominations should be sent to: Harley Lewis, Athletic Director, Adams Field House, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812.

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